

Virginia Department of Education Board Highlights



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Board of Education Honors Virginia Teachers of the Year

Virginia's eight regional teachers of the year were honored by the Board of Education at the board's February 15, 2001, meeting in Richmond. Board President Kirk T. Schroder presented each teacher with a resolution expressing the board's appreciation for their contributions to public education and a Virginia flag to be flown in their honor at their respective schools. "You are our ambassadors," said Mr. Schroder. "It is our hope that your example will inspire more young people to choose teaching as a career."

The eight teachers told the board they are using the public speaking opportunities that have accompanied their notoriety to promote teaching. "We are doing our part to promote teacher recruitment and retention," said Region Three and Virginia Teacher of the Year Cari Vickey. Ms. Vickey is a third-grade teacher at Winding Creek Elementary School in Stafford County. Region One Teacher of the Year Betty Leathers told the board that her most rewarding experiences as a teacher are what she called the "aha moments" when a student suddenly grasps a new concept. Ms. Leathers is an eighth-grade science teacher at Providence Middle School in Chesterfield County. The eight regional teachers of the year are:

Region One: Betty Leathers, Providence Middle School, Chesterfield County;
Region Two: Shelly Montanez, Western Branch High School, Chesapeake;
Region Three: Cari Vickey, Winding Creek Elementary School, Stafford County;
Region Four: Rodney Baer, Taylor Elementary School, Arlington County;
Region Five: Anna Kathryn Eby, Keezletown Elementary School, Rockingham County;
Region Six: Jackie Stevens, Stony Mill Elementary School, Pittsylvania County;
Region Seven: Rita Key, Galax High School, Galax;
Region Eight: Margorie Joyner, Greenville Elementary School, Greenville County.

All school divisions and accredited nonpublic schools in Virginia are invited to participate in the Virginia Teacher of the Year program. Application portfolios submitted to the Department of Education are reviewed by a committee representing major professional associations, businesses, and the current Virginia Teacher of the Year. The committee names a teacher of the year from each educational region, and after interviewing the regional winners selects one as Virginia Teacher of the Year.

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Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting February 16, 2000

Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- Final review of Accountability Advisory Committee's recommendation of Advanced Placement Human Geography as a substitute test for the Standards of Learning World Geography Test (moved to consent agenda from regular agenda)

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution honoring Virginia's 2001 Teachers of the Year

Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
First review of proposed special education complaint appeal procedures	The board waived first review and adopted the procedures on final review.
First review of revised Health Education Standards of Learning	The board waived first review and approved the revised standards for public comment.
First review of revised Physical Education Standards of Learning	The board waived first review and approved the revised standards for public comment.
First review of revised Driver Education Standards of Learning	The board waived first review and approved the revised standards for public comment.
First review of a model school improvement plan format and guidelines for annual reports from schools that are accredited with warning	The board waived first review and adopted the format and guidelines on final review.
Final review of Regulations Governing Approved Programs for Virginia Institutions of Higher Education	The board adopted the regulations as amended on final review.
Presentation from the Albemarle County Public Schools on the evaluation of on-line courses approved by the Board of Education	The board received the presentation.
First review of a request for approval of a program involving an alternative staffing plan for library-media services	The board approved the request on first review pending final action at its next meeting.

Public Comment

- Stephen P. Plaskon, of the Virginia Society for Technology Education, discussed the Virginia's Community of Learning Web-site (www.virginialearning.org).

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